

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An articulating bathing and support device for an individual comprising:

a central support chassis comprising two articulating connector pairs joined by one or more lateral braces that can be variably sized to set the relative position of an anterior articulating connector to a posterior articulating connector within said articulating connector pair, each said posterior connector having a superior posterior connecting member and an inferior posterior connecting member that may be independently rotatably positionable about a coplanar arc of movement, and pivoting within said anterior articulating connector, each said anterior articulating connector having an anterior connecting member that may be independently rotatably positionable about a coplanar arc of movement, and pivoting within said anterior articulating connector;

a transverse brace rigidly joining said articulating connector pairs;

a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame connected to said anterior articulating connectors and a posterior chassis support frame connected to said posterior articulating connector, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames being independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said articulating connector and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc; and,

a head and thorax support frame connected to each said superior posterior connecting member.

2. (Original) A device of claim 1 wherein each said anterior articulating connector further comprises an anterior superior connecting member that may be independently rotatably positionable about an arc of movement with said anterior articulating connector, and pivoting within said anterior articulating connector; and,

a lower extremity support frame connected to each said superior anterior connecting member.

3. (Original) A device of claim 1 further comprising:

a drape of support material attached to and extending across said head and thorax support frame, said lower extremity support frame and a superior portion of said lateral braces to support the weight of said individual.

4. (Currently Amended) An articulating bathing and support device for an individual comprising:

a central support chassis comprising two articulating connector pairs joined by one or more lateral braces that can be variably sized to set the relative position of an anterior articulating connector to a posterior articulating connector within said articulating connector pair, each said articulating connector comprising a superior connecting member and an inferior connecting member that are independently rotatably positionable about a coplanar arc of movement, pivoting within said anterior articulating connector;

a transverse brace mounted between and rigidly joining said articulating connector pairs;

a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame and a posterior chassis support frame, said anterior chassis support frame connected to said inferior connecting members of said anterior articulating connectors, said posterior chassis support frame connected to said inferior connecting members of said posterior articulating connectors, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames being independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said articulating connector and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

a lower extremity support frame connected to said superior connecting members of said anterior articulating connectors;

a head and thorax support frame connected to said superior connecting members of said posterior articulating connectors; and,

a drape of support material attached to and extending across said head and thorax support frame, said lower extremity support frame and a superior portion of said lateral braces to support the weight of said individual.

5. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 4 wherein, said transverse brace is mounted perpendicular to a cylindrical axis of said lateral braces and said arc of

movement, and rigidly fixes the position of said articulating pairs of articulating connectors with respect to one another.

6. (Original) A device of claim 4 wherein, said head and thorax support frame is connected to both superior connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors, and said head and thorax support frame is independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors.

7. (Original) A device of claim 4 wherein, one or more of said lateral braces, said lower extremity support frame, said head and thorax support frame, and said positioning stand are tubular members.

8. (Original) A device of claim 4 wherein, each said articulating connecting member further comprises:

a connecting tube, said connecting tube comprising, a semi-cylindrical articulating connecting receiver with a proximal pivot end fixed within said articulating connector and a distal engagement end for receiving a member that articulates in a single plane arc of movement of less than 180 degrees that can be rigidly held at more than one point within said arc.

9. (Original) A device of claim 8 wherein, said anterior chassis support frame is connected to both inferior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors and said posterior chassis support frame is connected to said both inferior connecting tubes of said posterior articulating connectors.

10. (Original) A device of claim 8 wherein, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames are independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes.

11. ~~(Canceled) A device of claim 8 wherein, said lower extremity support frame is connected to both superior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors and said lower extremity support frame is independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors.~~

12. (Currently Amended) An articulating bathing and support device for an individual comprising:

a central support chassis comprising two articulating connector pairs;

each said articulating connector pair comprising an anterior and a posterior articulating connector, rigidly joined by one or more lateral braces, said lateral braces that can be variably sized to set the relative position of said anterior articulating connector to said posterior articulating connector within said articulating connector pair;

each said articulating connector further comprising a superior and an inferior connecting tube, each said superior and inferior connecting tube comprising, a semi-cylindrical articulating connecting receiver with a proximal pivot end fixed within said articulating connector and a distal engagement end for receiving a member that articulates in a single plane arc of movement of less than 180 degrees that can be rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

said transverse brace mounted between said anterior articulating connectors, perpendicular to a cylindrical axis of said lateral braces and said arc of movement, and rigidly fixes the position of said articulating pairs of articulating connectors with respect to one another;

a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame connected to said inferior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors and a posterior chassis support frame connected to said connecting tubes of said posterior articulating connectors, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tube and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

a lower extremity support frame connected to said superior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors, said lower extremity support frame independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors;

a head and thorax support frame connected to said superior connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors, said head and thorax support frame independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors; and,

a drape of support material attached to and extending across said head an thorax support frame, said lower extremity support frame and a superior portion of said lateral braces to support the weight of said individual.

13. (Currently Amended) An articulating bathing and support chair custom fit to the anthropometric and functional needs of an individual comprising:

a central support chassis comprising two articulating connector pairs;

each said articulating connector pair comprising an anterior and a posterior articulating connector, rigidly joined by one or more lateral braces, said lateral braces that position of said anterior articulating connector to said posterior articulating connector within said articulating connector pair;

a transverse brace mounted between and rigidly joining said articulating connector pairs;

a positioning stand connected to, and in support of said central support chassis comprising articulating anterior and posterior chassis support frames, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames being independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said articulating connector and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

a lower extremity support connected to said anterior articulating connectors, said lower extremity support independently rotatably positionable about a pivot point within said anterior articulating connectors;

a head and thorax support connected to said posterior articulating connectors, said head and thorax support independently rotatably positionable about a pivot point within said posterior articulating connectors;

said central support chassis being customized to specific dimensions by sizing said lateral braces and said transverse brace of appropriate length and said head and thorax support, said lower extremity support and said chassis support frames sized to fit said central support chassis and specific dimensional needs of said individual.

14. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 13 wherein, said transverse brace is perpendicular to a cylindrical axis of said lateral braces and said arc of movement, and rigidly fixes the position of said articulating pairs of articulating connectors with respect to one another.

15. (Original) A device of claim 13 wherein, said head and thorax support frame is connected to both superior connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors, and

said head and thorax support frame is independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors.

16. (Original) A device of claim 13 wherein, one or more of said lateral braces, said lower extremity support frame, said head and thorax support frame, and said positioning stand are tubular members.

17. (Original) A device of claim 13 wherein, each said articulating connecting member further comprises:

a connecting tube, said connecting tube comprising, a semi-cylindrical articulating connecting receiver with a proximal pivot end fixed within said articulating connector and a distal engagement end for receiving a member that articulates in a single plane arc of movement of less than 180 degrees that can be rigidly held at more than one point within said arc.

18. (Original) A device of claim 17 wherein, said anterior chassis support frame is connected to both inferior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors and said posterior chassis support frame is connected to said both inferior connecting tubes of said posterior articulating connectors.

19. ~~(Canceled) A device of claim 17 wherein, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames are independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes.~~

20. (Original) A device of claim 17 wherein, said lower extremity support frame is connected to both superior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors and said lower extremity support frame is independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors.

21. (Currently Amended) An articulating bathing and support chair custom fit to the anthropometric and functional needs of an individual comprising:

a central support chassis comprising two articulating connector pairs;

each said articulating connector pair comprising an anterior and a posterior articulating connector, rigidly joined by one or more lateral braces, said lateral braces that set the relative position of said anterior articulating connector to said posterior articulating connector within said articulating connector pair;

each said articulating connector further comprising a superior and an inferior connecting tube, each said superior and inferior connecting tube comprising, a semi-cylindrical articulating connecting receiver with a proximal pivot end fixed within said articulating connector and a distal engagement end for receiving a member that articulates in a single plane arc of movement of less than 180 degrees that can be rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

said transverse brace mounted between said anterior articulating connectors, perpendicular to a cylindrical axis of said lateral braces and said arc of movement, and rigidly fixes the position of said articulating pairs of articulating connectors with respect to one another;

a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame connected to said inferior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors and a posterior chassis support frame connected to said connecting tubes of said posterior articulating connectors, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tube and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

a lower extremity support frame connected to said superior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors, said lower extremity support frame independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors;

a head and thorax support frame connected to said superior connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors, said head and thorax support frame independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors;

a drape of support material attached to and extending across said head and thorax support frame, said lower extremity support frame and a superior portion of said lateral braces to support the weight of said individual;

said central support chassis being customized to specific dimensions by sizing said lateral braces and said transverse brace of appropriate length and said head and thorax support frame, said lower extremity support frame and said chassis support frames sized to fit said central support chassis and specific dimensional needs of said individual.

22. (Currently Amended) An articulating bathing and support device for an individual comprising:

a central support chassis means for forming a frame for said support device comprising two articulating connector pairs, each said articulating connector pair having an anterior and a posterior articulating connector;

a lateral brace means for rigidly joining and determining the relative position of said anterior articulating connector to said posterior articulating connector within said articulating connector pair;

a superior connecting tube means and an inferior connecting tube means on each said articulating connector that pivots at a proximal pivot end, fixed within said articulating connector, and a distal engagement end for receiving a member that articulates in a single plane arc of movement of less than 180 degrees that can be rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

a transverse brace means mounted between said anterior articulating connectors, perpendicular to a cylindrical axis of said lateral braces and said arc of movement, for rigidly fixing the position of said articulating pairs of articulating connectors with respect to one another;

a positioning stand means to elevate and position said central support chassis means wherein an anterior chassis support frame connected to said inferior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors and a posterior chassis support frame connected to said connecting tubes of said posterior articulating connectors, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tube and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

a lower extremity support frame means to elevate and position the lower extremities of said individual, said lower extremity support frame means connected to said superior connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors, said lower extremity support frame means independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said anterior articulating connectors;

a head and thorax support frame means to elevate and position the head and thorax of said individual, said lower head and thorax frame means connected to said

superior connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors, said head and thorax support frame means independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said connecting tubes on said posterior articulating connectors; and,

a drape material supporting means attached to and extending across said head and thorax support frame, said lower extremity support frame and a superior portion of said lateral braces for supporting the weight of said individual.

23. (Original) An articulating bathing and support device of claim 22 further comprising:

said central support chassis means that is customized to specific dimensions by sizing said lateral brace means and said transverse brace means of appropriate length and said head and thorax support frame means, said lower extremity support frame means and said chassis support frames means sized to fit said central support chassis means for achieving specific dimensional needs of said individual.

24. (Currently Amended) A method of customizing an articulating bathing and support device for variations in anthropomology of an individual comprising the steps of:

providing a central support chassis comprising two articulating connector pairs;

determining a relative distance between an anterior articulating connector to a posterior articulating connector within said central support chassis that is based upon said anthropomology of said individual;

rigidly joining said anterior articulating connector to said posterior articulating connector with at least one lateral brace of a length that is based upon said relative distance between said anterior articulating connector to said posterior articulating connector to create a left connector pair and a right connector pair;

determining a relative distance between said left connector pair and said right connector pair within said central support chassis that is based upon said anthropomology of said individual; and,

rigidly joining said left connector pair and said right connector pair with at least one transverse brace mounted between and rigidly joining said articulating connector pairs of a length that is based upon said relative distance between said left connector pair and said right connector pair;

providing a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame and a posterior chassis support frame, said anterior chassis support frame connected to anterior articulating connectors, said posterior chassis support frame connected to said posterior articulating connectors, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames being independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said articulating connector and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc.

25. (Canceled) ~~A method of claim 24 further comprising the step of:~~

~~providing a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame and a posterior chassis support frame, said anterior chassis support frame connected to anterior articulating connectors, said posterior chassis support frame connected to said posterior articulating connectors.~~

26. (Original) A method of claim 24 further comprising the step of:

providing a head and thorax support frame connected to said posterior articulating connectors.

27. (Original) A method of claim 24 further comprising the step of:

providing a lower extremity support frame connected to said anterior articulating connectors.

28. (Previously Presented) A method of customizing an articulating bathing and support device for variations in anthropomology of an individual comprising the steps of:

providing a central support chassis comprising two articulating connector pairs, each joined by at least one lateral brace connecting an anterior articulating connector to a posterior articulating connector within said articulating connector pair to form a left connector pair and a right connector pair, each said posterior connector comprising a superior connecting member and an inferior connecting member pivoting within said anterior articulating connector, each said anterior articulating connector comprising an inferior connecting member pivoting within said anterior articulating connector;

fixing the relative distance between said left connector pair and said right connector pair with at least one transverse brace rigidly joining said left connector pair to said right connector pair;

dimensioning said central support chassis by:

fixing the relative distance between said anterior articulating connector pair and said posterior connecting pair by utilizing at least one said lateral brace of a length that is based upon said anthropomology of said individual;

fixing the relative distance between said left connector pair and said right connector pair by utilizing at least one transverse brace rigidly joining said articulating connector pairs of a length that is based upon said anthropomology of said individual; and,

providing a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame connected to said anterior articulating connectors and a posterior chassis support frame connected to said posterior articulating connectors, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames being independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said articulating connector and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

dimensioning said posterior chassis support frame and said anterior chassis support frame based upon said anthropomology of said individual;

providing a head and thorax support frame connected to said superior connecting members of said posterior articulating connectors;

dimensioning said head and thorax support based upon said anthropomology of said individual.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of reconfiguring the structural components of a customized articulating bathing and support device for changes in anthropomology of an individual comprising the steps of:

providing a central support chassis comprising two articulating connector pairs, each said articulating connector pair comprising an anterior articulating connector rigidly joined to a posterior articulating connector to create a left connector pair and a right connector pair, said left connector pair rigidly joined to and said right connector pair with at least one transverse brace;

providing a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame connected to said anterior articulating connectors and a posterior chassis support frame connected to said posterior articulating connectors, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames being independently rotatably positionable

about said arc of movement of said articulating connector and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

reconfiguring a central support chassis by:

evaluating the relative distance between said anterior articulating connector pair and said posterior connecting pair based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual;

replacing at least one said lateral brace as necessary, based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual;

evaluating the relative distance between said left connector pair and said right connector pair based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual; and,

replacing at least one said transverse brace mounted between and rigidly joining said articulating connector pairs as necessary, based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual.

30. (Canceled) ~~A method of claim 29 further comprising the step of:~~

~~providing a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame and a posterior chassis support frame, said anterior chassis support frame connected to anterior articulating connectors, said posterior chassis support frame connected to said posterior articulating connectors.~~

31. (Original) A method of claim 29 further comprising the step of:

providing a head and thorax support frame connected to said posterior articulating connectors.

32. (Original) A method of claim 29 further comprising the step of:

providing a lower extremity support frame connected to said anterior articulating connectors.

33. (Previously Presented) A method of reconfiguring the structural components of a customized articulating bathing and support device for changes in anthropomology of an individual comprising the steps of:

providing a central support chassis comprising two articulating connector pairs, each joined by at least one lateral brace connecting an anterior articulating connector to a posterior articulating connector within said articulating connector pair to form a left

connector pair and a right connector pair, each said posterior connector comprising a superior connecting member and an inferior connecting member pivoting within said anterior articulating connector, each said anterior articulating connector comprising an inferior connecting member pivoting within said anterior articulating connector;

fixing the relative distance between said left connector pair and said right connector pair with at least one transverse brace rigidly joining said left connector pair to said right connector pair;

reconfiguring said central support chassis by:

evaluating the relative distance between said anterior articulating connector pair and said posterior connecting pair based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual;

replacing at least one said lateral brace as necessary, based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual;

evaluating the relative distance between said left connector pair and said right connector pair based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual;

replacing at least one said transverse brace as necessary, based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual;

providing a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame connected to said anterior articulating connectors and a posterior chassis support frame connected to said posterior articulating connectors, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames being independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said articulating connectors and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc;

evaluating the dimensions of said posterior chassis support frame and said anterior chassis support frame based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual;

replacing said posterior chassis support frame and said anterior chassis support frame as necessary, based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual;

providing a head and thorax support frame connected to said superior connecting members of said posterior articulating connectors;

evaluating the dimensions of said head and thorax support based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual; and,
replacing said head and thorax support as necessary, based upon said changes in anthropomology of said individual.

34. (Currently Amended) An articulating bathing and support device for an individual comprising:

a central support chassis comprising two connector pairs joined by one or more lateral braces that can be variably sized to set the relative position of an anterior connector to a posterior articulating connector within said connector pair, each said posterior connector having a superior posterior connecting member and an inferior posterior connecting member that may be independently rotatably positionable about an arc of movement, and pivoting within said anterior articulating connector, a transverse brace mounted between and rigidly joining said articulating connector pairs;

a positioning stand for said central support chassis comprising an anterior chassis support frame and a posterior chassis support frame, said anterior chassis support frame connected to each said inferior posterior connecting member, said posterior chassis support frame connected to said inferior posterior connecting member, said anterior and posterior chassis support frames being independently rotatably positionable about said arc of movement of said articulating connectors and are rigidly held at more than one point within said arc; and,

a head and thorax support frame connected to each said superior posterior connecting member.